

II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus comprising:
 - at least one non magnetic carrier fixed or able to be fixed with chemical substances such as ligands;
 - a transferable carrier housing section comprising:
 - a large diameter section which accommodates said carrier, the large diameter section having a bottom, and
 - a small diameter section connected to the large diameter section, the small diameter section comprising a tip, and a fluid inlet/outlet at the tip;
 - a plurality of containers provided outside of said transferable carrier housing section;
 - a drawing/discharging section configured to draw a fluid through said inlet/outlet and into said transferable carrier housing section, and then discharge the fluid out of said transferable carrier housing section through said inlet/outlet; and
 - a transferring section which transfers said transferable carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of said transferable carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers including the transfer of the large diameter section and the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers including the transfer of the tip and the inlet/outlet relatively with respect to the containers,
 - wherein said carrier is formed in a size or a shape not allowing said carrier to pass through said inlet/outlet,
 - wherein said carrier is positioned at the bottom of the large diameter section,
 - wherein said carrier is configured to have a self-weight such that:
 - the position of said carrier is maintained at the bottom of the large diameter section by the self-weight while the drawing/discharging section draws the fluid in a first direction into the bottom of the large diameter section from the small diameter section,
 - and

the position of said carrier is maintained at the bottom of the large diameter section by the self-weight while the drawing/discharging section discharges the fluid in a second direction into the small diameter section from the bottom of the large diameter section, the second direction being opposite to the first direction,

wherein said carrier housing section further comprises an opening having a size enabling said carrier to pass through, and said drawing/discharging section is provided with a nozzle which detachably connects with said opening, and said carrier is formed in a size capable of passing through said opening but not capable of passing through said inlet/outlet,

wherein the smaller diameter of the small diameter section of said transferable carrier housing section enables insertion of the smaller diameter section into each of the containers, the insertion of the smaller diameter section into each of the containers including the insertion of the tip and the inlet/outlet into each of the containers, and

wherein said carrier or said carrier housing section is provided with an adhesion prevention section for keeping said carrier from being adhered to the inner wall of said carrier housing section.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is; a particle having a larger diameter than said inlet/outlet, a block member having a shape not capable of passing through said inlet/outlet, a sheet member, a wire like member formed by bending in a predetermined size.
5. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of carriers are a plurality of kinds.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is; a member having through holes, a permeable membrane member, a porous member, or a mesh member, which is held at a predetermined position in said carrier housing section so as to divide and partition said carrier housing section into upper and lower spaces, and allow a fluid to pass therethrough.
9. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is held at the bottom of said carrier housing section, which is a predetermined position, by self-weight, and carrier holding sections such as projections, ditches, corrugated surfaces are provided at the bottom so as to keep said carrier from blocking passage of said fluid.
10. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier housing section is formed from a translucent member, and a measuring apparatus which measures luminescence on said carrier is provided outside of said carrier housing section.
11. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein in said carrier housing section, a side face provided with said measuring apparatus is formed in a plane.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is a glass or its surface is coated with a glass.
14. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing method comprising;

providing at least one non magnetic carrier fixed or able to be fixed with chemical substances such as ligands;

accommodating said carrier in a large diameter section of a housing section, the large diameter section having a bottom at which said carrier is positioned, the housing section further comprising a small diameter section connected to the large diameter section, the small diameter section comprising a tip, and a fluid inlet/outlet at the tip;

providing a plurality of external containers outside of the housing section;

a drawing/contacting step for, with respect to the housing section, drawing fluid through said inlet/outlet from the external containers by a drawing/discharging section, to contact said carrier which is held in said carrier housing section by self-weight of said carrier, with the drawn fluid, the drawing/discharging section drawing the fluid in a first direction into the bottom of the large diameter section from the small diameter section;

a discharging step for discharging only said fluid through said inlet/outlet by said drawing/discharging section, in a state where said carrier is accommodated in said carrier housing section, the drawing/discharging section discharging the fluid in a second direction into the small diameter section from the bottom of the large diameter section, the second direction being opposite to the first direction,

a transferring step for transferring said carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of said carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers outside including the transfer of the large diameter section and the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers including the transfer of the tip and the inlet/outlet relatively with respect to the containers; and

an inserting step for inserting the inlet/outlet into each of the containers, wherein the smaller diameter of the small diameter section of the housing section enables the insertion of the inlet/outlet into each of the containers;

wherein said carrier housing section further comprises an opening having a size enabling said carrier to pass through, and said drawing/discharging section is provided with a nozzle which detachably connects with said opening, and said carrier is formed in a size capable of passing through said opening but not capable of passing through said inlet/outlet,

wherein said carrier or said carrier housing section is provided with an adhesion prevention section for keeping said carrier from being adhered to the inner wall of said carrier housing section,

wherein the position of said carrier is maintained at the bottom of the large diameter section by the self-weight while the drawing/discharging section draws the fluid in the first direction into the bottom of the large diameter section from the small diameter section, and

wherein the position of said carrier is maintained at the bottom of the large diameter section by the self-weight while the drawing/discharging section discharges the fluid in the second direction into the small diameter section from the bottom of the large diameter section.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing method according to claim 14, further comprising repeatedly drawing and discharging the fluid with respect to said carrier housing section.

17. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing method according to any one of claim 14 and claim 16, further comprising an accommodating step for accommodating said carrier in said carrier housing section from an opening having a size enabling said carrier to pass through.

18. (Currently Amended) A carrier housing/processing method according to ~~any one of claim 14, claim 16 and claim 17~~ claim 14, further comprising a removing step for removing said carrier from said carrier housing section through an opening having a size enabling said carrier provided in said carrier housing section to pass through.

19. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the carrier housing section comprises a large diameter section;

wherein the apparatus further comprises a filter provided in the large diameter section of the carrier housing section, the filter dividing the large diameter section to thereby define

upper and lower spaces of the large diameter section, the lower space being fluidically coupled to the inlet/outlet;

wherein the carrier is disposed in the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section;

wherein the drawing/discharging section is configured to draw the fluid through the inlet/outlet and into the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section, and then discharge the fluid out of the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section through the inlet/outlet; and

wherein the filter prevents the fluid drawn into the lower space from invading the upper space.

20. (Previously Presented) A carrier housing/processing method according to claim 14, wherein the carrier housing section comprises a large diameter section;

wherein the method further comprises providing a filter in the large diameter section of the carrier housing section, the filter dividing the large diameter section to thereby define upper and lower spaces of the large diameter section, the lower space being fluidically coupled to the inlet/outlet;

wherein the carrier is disposed in the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section;

wherein the drawing/contacting step further comprises drawing the fluid through the inlet/outlet and into the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section;

wherein the discharging step comprises discharging the fluid out of the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section through the inlet/outlet; and

wherein the method further comprises preventing the fluid drawn into the lower space from invading the upper space using the filter.